APEDA plan for organic farming

1525. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether APEDA has formulated a plan for farmers to switch over the 'organic farming[1] in place of the traditional farming to boost the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether APEDA has developed organic standards for various organic farm products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how these standards are made available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Under the aegis of National Programme for Organic Production, APEDA promotes organic farming through various export oriented initiatives, including development of model organic farms, conduct of awareness programmes etc.

(c) to (e) APEDA has developed organic standards for four crops namely, rice, sugarcane, pineapple and passion fruits. These standards (package of practices) were translated and made available in the North Eastern States in the local language as well as in English.

Special hospitals for women in Orissa

1526. MS. PRAMILA BOHID: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special hospitals are proposed to be set up in Orissa for women to improve health care of the mother and the child;

(b) if so, the contribution of the Central Government to help the State to achieve this objective, as it is a poverty stricken area; and